



Affiliated with AFL-CIO
International Association of Fire Fighters

**MONTANA STATE COUNCIL
OF
PROFESSIONAL FIRE FIGHTERS**

Senate Local Govt. Comm.

Exhibit No. 5

Date 3-7-2011

Bill No. HB 231

Date: March 7, 2011

From: Tod Miller
1806 S. Haynes
Miles City, MT. 59301

Re: HB 231

Chairman Sonju, Members of the Committee

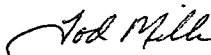
My name is Tod Miller, I'm president of the Montana State Council of Professional Fire Fighters. On behalf of the 530 members that I represent I write to you in opposition to HB 231.

It is the belief of the MSCOPFF, legislation that would propose to make such sweeping changes to the manner in which fire protection is delivered in this state should come from those who stand to be affected by those changes. We feel it serves best that when legislation such as this is drafted, input should be sought from those who stand to be affected by it.

As fire fighters we take great pride in being proactive in addressing issues and challenges we face in the communities we serve. As the State Council, we are equally proud of our participation at the state level in meeting with the Career chiefs and other fire service organizations of this state to proactively address the challenges faced by the fire service as a whole at the state level.

This legislation has not been brought forward on behalf of any of the fire organizations of this state, nor has input been sought from those affected by this legislation. We ask that this bill be tabled in favor of allowing the appropriate fire service organizations and entities to address the needs, issues, and challenges they face in a collaborative manner that will truly serve in the best interest of those we all protect.

Sincerely,


Tod Miller, President